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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP INTELLIGENCE REPORT

25X1A

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SUPPLEMENT

COUNTRY: French Indo China

SUBJECT: Recent Statements of HO Chi Minh

ORIGIN: [REDACTED]

1. HO Chi Minh emphasized that Viet Nam wants nothing short of national unity and independence with all the legitimate rights of an independent nation as, for example, India and the Philippines.
2. In regard to the question of Cochinchina, HO said that it was an integral part of Viet Nam and enjoys the same rights as Tonkin and Annam. These three regions of Viet Nam have their autonomous administrations under 25X1X authority of the National Assembly and a central government.
3. [REDACTED] the days of monarchy are over. He stated that Vinh Bao Dai could serve no useful purpose as an intermediary in discussions with the French. Any such discussions would best be held directly between the two governments.
4. In regard to the French High Commissioner in Indo China, HO said that if it is necessary to have one, his functions should be decided upon jointly by the French and Viet Nam Governments. Viet Nam would cooperate in the French Union and would respect French culture and property.
5. When asked about Communist affiliations and the Communist design of the Viet Nam flag, HO said that this was French propaganda. The red background of the flag represents the blood of the people shed for independence; the five-pointed star represents the union of the five classes of people: intellectuals, peasants, workers, businessmen and soldiers. China, said HO, is larger and its flag has a sun on a red background. Viet Nam is smaller; its flag carries a star on a background of the same color. Why, then, don't the French accuse the Chinese of Communist sympathies? The program of the Viet Nam Government is concerned with three points: rice for all, education for all and democratic liberties for all. If fighting poverty and illiteracy is Communism, HO said, then French propaganda is right.
6. When asked about the present aim of French policy in regard to Viet Nam, HO said that this was a question that would have to be put to the French themselves.

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-2-



7. As far as a Federal Union of Viet Nam, Laos, Cambodia, Siam and Burma is concerned, HO said that any union is feasible and useful if there is understanding and agreement among the countries. If foreign advisors were needed by Viet Nam, he would select them from any appropriate country, including France.
8. In a description of Viet Nam relations with China, HO said that their respective peoples have enjoyed friendly relations for thousands of years. Whether they were KMT or Communist was a Chinese internal question and Viet Nam has no right to interfere. If Viet Nam and the other countries of Southeast Asia attend to their own affairs, they won't have to worry about any foreign influence.
9. In answer to questions concerning his retirement and future Viet Nam unity, HO said that his successor would be chosen by the Viet Namese people, and not by himself. He added that Viet Minh is capable of maintaining its unity.
10. Viet Nam would welcome representatives of the American press and impartial observers, according to HO, but they must be able to adapt themselves to the exigencies of guerrilla life.
11. When asked whether Viet Nam, in the event that it gained independence, would seek help from the United States or other nations, HO did not answer. However, he posed a question of his own: "American Democracy has defended the right of people to govern themselves and has recognized the independence of the Philippines. Why, then, has she furnished arms (tanks, cannons, etc.) to fight us -- we who have fought on the side of the Americans against the Japanese -- we who are doing just what the Americans did under the leadership of the great and noble Washington?"

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